

# K&K NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 – August 2026

**\*\* Celebrating 93 Years of Service \*\***

## Splashing Safely: Navigating Rhode Island's Strict Backyard Pool Laws



As summer temperatures rise across the Ocean State, backyard pools become the center of family fun. However, for Rhode Island homeowners, a residential pool carries significant legal responsibilities. Under state premises liability law and strict municipal building codes, failing to properly secure a pool can lead to devastating accidents, severe local fines, and catastrophic civil lawsuits. Whether you currently own a pool or are planning to install one this season, understanding your legal obligations is essential to keeping your neighborhood safe and protecting your assets.

### **Your 5-Step Risk Mitigation Checklist:**

1. **Weekly Latch Inspections:** Physically test your pool gates every week to ensure they latch automatically without needing a manual push.
2. **Clear the Climbing Zone:** Remove chairs, tables, firewood piles, or large landscaping rocks from the outside perimeter of your fence, as children can use these to climb over.
3. **De-Escalate the Attraction:** Store all pool toys, inflatables, and diving rings in an opaque bin away from the water immediately after use so they are not visible from the street or neighboring yards.
4. **Secure Above-Ground Access:** If you have an above-ground pool, always lock, flip up, or completely remove the entry steps whenever the pool is not under active adult supervision.
5. **Review Umbrella Policy:** Ensure your homeowners insurance policy includes an adequate personal umbrella liability limit (typically a minimum of \$1 Million to \$2 Million) that explicitly covers residential swimming pool incidents.

### **We Are Here to Help**

Premises liability law is a nuance, and a single oversight can change a family's life forever. If you are facing a property dispute, navigating a municipal zoning issue, or simply want to review your liability exposure, our legal team is here to guide you. Let us know how we can best support your legal needs. Please give our office a call at **(401) 946-3200**.

**Christopher L. Russo, Esquire Managing Partner**



## WE'RE EXCITED TO SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON SUSAN EMOND

Susan joined our team as an experienced bookkeeper, and from day one, her efficiency, attention to detail, and exceptional organizational skills have made a tremendous impact. Whether she's keeping our financials in order or helping us stay on track with day-to-day operations, Susan is someone we can always count on to keep things running smoothly.

**Fun fact:** Susan once owned an organizing business helping both businesses and homeowners transform cluttered spaces into organized, functional ones. It's no surprise that those same talents continue to benefit our office every day. In addition to her bookkeeping responsibilities, Susan has also stepped in to assist with legal support whenever needed, demonstrating her versatility and willingness to help wherever she can. Outside of the office, Susan enjoys camping, spending quality time with her family, and is a big fan of Pink. We're grateful to have Susan as part of our team and appreciate everything she does behind the scenes to help keep us organized and moving forward!



## \*\* A HEARTFELT FAREWELL TO JACKIE ALGER \*\*

Jackie was an indispensable part of our legal team! We could always count on her to keep us on track through our busiest trials and tightest deadlines. Her dedication, patience, and kindness will be deeply missed by everyone here.

Congratulations to her on a truly remarkable career with Served Right Ltd. We wish her endless joy, relaxation, and adventure in this next chapter. She enjoys a well-deserved retirement, especially with her grandchildren!

*Christopher L. Russo, Esquire Managing Partner*



## CHILD SUPPORT MODIFICATION

As summer winds down and freshly graduated children head off to college, many parents assume that their child support obligation automatically terminates. In Rhode Island, however, child support does not automatically stop, and a Court Order is required to officially terminate a child support obligation. Similarly, the amount of child support that a non-custodial parent is ordered to pay is not directly proportionate to the

number of children he or she may have. For example, if a parent has two children and one becomes emancipated, the child support does not automatically cut in half. A new child support worksheet must be prepared to determine the amount of support for one child, as it is not as simple as simply halving the prior amount.

If we could assist you in the termination or modification of your child support, or if you have any questions whatsoever on this topic, feel free to reach out. Please give us a call at (401) 946-3200.

*Jesse Nason, Esquire*



## Navigating the Stress of a Legal Dispute

Going through a legal dispute is often one of the most challenging chapters in a person's life. Between gathering documents, reviewing timelines, and waiting for updates, it is completely normal to feel overwhelmed, anxious, or exhausted. While our team is fully focused on fighting for your rights and handling the complexities of your case, we want to remind you to take care of the person at the center of it all: **YOU**

Managing your stress isn't just good for your health – it also keeps your mind sharp so you can make the best decisions for your future.

### 4 Practical Ways To Protect Your Well-Being and Find Balance

**Control the Controllables** – Legal timelines are often dictated by court schedules and administrative processes, which can cause frustrating delays. When the big picture feels out of your hands, ground yourself on focusing on small daily routines **you can control**.

**Set Communication Boundaries** – It is easy to let your case consume 24 hours of your day. To prevent burnout, establish strict boundaries around how and when you think about your dispute.

- Designate a "Legal Window": Check on emails or review case documents once or twice a day.
- Keep Evenings Clear: Avoid looking at legal paperwork right before bed to protect your sleep quality.

**Move Your Body to Release Tension** – Stress physically stores itself in your muscles, leading to headaches, fatigue, or chest tightness. You don't need an intense workout to break the cycle.

- Take a brisk walk around your neighborhood
- Do five minutes of light stretching or yoga.
- Practice simple deep-breathing exercise when anxiety spikes.

**Build a Team Outside of The Law Firm** – We are here to manage your legal case, but you also need an emotional support system. Lean on people who can offer a safe space to vent or a welcome distraction.

- Schedule a coffee with a trusted friend who does not talk about the case.
- Join a local support group of people going through similar life transitions.
- Speak with a professional therapist or counselor to learn personalized coping tools.

**We Have the Burden from Here** – Remember, you do not have to carry the weight of the entire case on your shoulders. You hired us to carry the legal burden so that you can **focus on healing, recovering, and moving forward**. If you feel overwhelmed by a request or need clarity on your case to ease your mind, please reach out to our office at **(401) 946-3200**. We are in this together!



## IT'S THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!



IT IS INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

### \*\*\*\* DOG PHOTO CONTEST \*\*\*\*

Send a cute photo of your dog to [plaplante@kirshenbaumri.com](mailto:plaplante@kirshenbaumri.com) between **August 17 – August 21**. Please place in the subject line of the email: **Dog Days of Summer Contest** and provide your dog's name and a fact about your dog. Example: favorite toy or treat or funny habit. The winner will be announced on **Wednesday, August 26** and will receive a \$25 gift card from K&K.



### Fruit Cookie Pizza

- 1) Preheat oven to 350°F. Press 16 oz softened refrigerated sugar cookie dough evenly into a greased pizza pan, spreading it to the edges. Bake for 15 minutes, or until the edges are lightly golden, then remove from the oven and let the crust cool completely.
- 2) In a mixing bowl, combine 8 oz softened cream cheese, 2 Tbsp softened butter, 2 cups powdered sugar, and 2 tsp vanilla extract. Use a hand mixer to beat the ingredients together for about 2-3 minutes, until the frosting becomes smooth and creamy.
- 3) Spread the cream cheese frosting on top of the cooled cookie.
- 4) Top with your favorite fruits, such as blueberries, sliced strawberries, sliced kiwis, and mandarin oranges.
- 5) Refrigerate to chill until frosting slightly sets.



• AUGUST 16 •

**SIGN UP**

### Back To School Raffle

**DRAWING IS AUGUST 28**

**Chance To Win a  
\$100 Visa Gift Card!**



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